



CALPEEK

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CAMPAIGN 2004: U.S. REP. RADANOVICH QUILTS U.S. SENATE CONTEST AND WILL SEEK 6TH TERM IN 2004.

Editor's note: With the announcement June 25th that U.S. Rep. George Radanovich(R-Mariposa) will not give up his House seat to run against Demo U.S. Sen. Barbara Boxer next year, that brings to seven (7) the number of GOP U.S. House members who have looked at the 2004 run against Boxer and decided not to run. Here's our analysis...

...Only a month before Radanovich's decision, U.S. Rep. Doug Ose(R-Sacramento) decided he would not challenge Boxer either. Ose's decision came as somewhat of a shock because many insiders felt he had the so-called "fire in the belly" to tackle Boxer. And of the two, Ose was considered the more viable because of his *deep pockets*. But when Ose pulled out of his senate exploratory effort, he also decided to retire at the end of the term from his very safe U.S. House seat. Radanovich has decided to seek reelection in 2004 to a sixth term. Why did Radanovich pull the plug on his senate effort? Same reason as Ose: family...

...In addition to Ose and Radanovich, U.S. Rep. Darrell Issa (R-Vista) had also *tested the U.S. Senate waters*. As *Cal-peek* readers know, Issa dropped his senate exploratory efforts in favor of the Davis recall. Like Ose, Issa has deep pockets, but is much more conservative than Ose or Radanovich. Other GOP U.S. House members whose names surfaced (even briefly) for a '04 match against Boxer included Jerry Lewis, Mary Bono, Chris Cox and David Dreier...

...Other GOPers who have passed at challenging Boxer include radio talk show host Dennis Prager and attorney Gary Mendoza, who ran in 2002 for insurance commissioner. In the *it's fun to have my name in print, but I'm not serious* category are former Gov. Pete Wilson and Bill Simon Jr. Simon isn't looking here because he's more interested in a rematch with Davis in the recall election...

...Who is left standing? Only two names that *Calpeek* has heard of: Toni Casey (www.tonicaseyforsenate.com), the former mayor of Los Altos; and Rosario Marin, the former U.S. Treasurer and former mayor of Huntington

Park in L.A. Co. Marin is exploring and Casey is running. Of the two, Marin is supposedly exploring with the "blessing" of the Bush White House. She'd certainly be a fresh face, but it's unknown if she can raise the \$15-20 million to take on Boxer – even with White House help. As one GOP source told *Calpeek*, "The feeling among some Republicans is to nominate her because she will boost the Hispanic vote for GOPers." Interesting spin...

...FYI: Demo reaction to the lack of a really strong and viable challenger to Boxer runs from "*I'm not shocked at all*" to "*I'm flabbergasted*." As one Demo source told *Calpeek* recently, "If it's a good GOP year, then Boxer may have a battle, but nationwide we're hearing the GOP is having problems recruiting." In the latest *L.A. Times* poll, Boxer's approval rating among registered voters is 44% vs. 30% disapprove and 26% undecided. Stay tuned...

RECALL MADNESS: DAVIS STILL IN BIG TROUBLE IN L.A. TIMES POLL. VOTERS LIKE U.S. SEN. FEINSTEIN.

Editor's note: Key backers of the effort to recall Calif. Gov. Gray Davis(D) have announced that their paid signature gathering drive is at an end and they have in hand more than 1.2 million signatures – more than the nearly 900,000 required. And most Demo sources now agree the recall election will take place. The only remaining question is WHEN? It's possible the anti-recall forces will take legal action to challenge the signature gathering effort. This may delay the process – forcing a March 2004 rather than a fall recall election. Regardless, the recall is now getting tons of national attention. Here's our analysis & commentary, with polling data from a new *L.A. Times* poll (June 28-July 2, 1,127 registered voters)...

...To the question, if the recall of Gov. Davis were held today, would you vote YES to recall him or NO: among registered voters it's 51% YES vs. 42% NO, with 5% don't know and 2% haven't heard enough. Not very good news for Davis and his supporters...

...On the other hand, as one anti-recall *Calpeek* source said: "Name me one initiative which has won which started out at

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51% - with significant money spent against it.” Dave Gilliard of *Rescue Calif.* is quoted in the 7/8/03 *Sacramento BEE* as saying his recall group has a budget of \$15 million. The anti-recall forces will easily match that figure – meaning the recall is going to be one of those mega-buck efforts (just like a costly initiative battle)...

... What has to be especially troubling in the new polling data for Gov. Davis is that among Demo voter, 33% are in favor of the recall vs. 60% against the recall, with 7% undecided or need more info. But here's what's interesting: If NO Demo were to run in this recall, then that 33% drops to 23% with 69% of Demos opposing to the recall. Among all voters, if NO Demo were to run, the recall numbers flip over: 50% NO vs. 42% YES and 8% undecided...

... The other interesting poll question dealt with the \$25-30 million cost of a special recall election. If the recall election were held in the fall (a special costing \$25-30 million) the numbers again flip: 30% in favor of the recall regardless of cost vs. 61% opposed. This is perhaps one reason why *DavisRecall.com* chair Ted Costa is nervous: he's supposed to be a taxpayer's advocate...

... Looking at the candidates, right now there are NO Demos running. The key word is right now. Insiders are betting if Davis' numbers don't improve there will be incredible pressure put on U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein(D) to run to keep Calif. under Demo control. Some GOPers just don't see DiFi running – noting her absolute hatred of recalls in general. But one thing is certain, in the *L.A. Times* poll, in an 11-person field, *DiFi comes out on top* with 25%. Next is former L.A. Mayor Richard Riordan and actor Arnold Schwarzenegger tied at 11%. Bill Simon Jr. is next with 9%. The rest of the field is in mid-to-low single digits, with Issa at only 3%. Considering all the publicity he's been getting, it is surprising he isn't scoring better. Undecided is 11%...

... FYI: On Adelphia Cable's *Week In Review* show with Bill Rosendahl, Simon sure sounded as though he were going to run in the recall election. As for Schwarzenegger, the *L.A. Times* poll shows he may have some problems with voters. To the question would you be inclined or not inclined to vote for Schwarzenegger, 53% were NOT inclined vs. 26% who would. In other words, some voters don't think Arnold is ready for prime time, Jay Leno not withstanding. It's been widely reported that Riordan and Schwarzenegger have some sort of buddy deal – mutual admiration society. If Schwarzenegger runs, Riordan won't and *vice versa*. If Riordan were to run, he might do so as a DTS – which might win him lots of Demo votes. Of the two, sources say Riordan would be an easy winner. Stay tuned...

BUDGET WARS: ASSEMBLY GOP BUDGET REJECTED BY DEMOS, BUT FIVE GOP LAWMAKERS DUCK VOTE

Editor's note: The Legislature is still deadlocked on passing a new 2003-04 budget, but there are some signs that the situation may not be as dark and gloomy as once thought. On the other hand, the war of words continues between Demo and GOP lawmakers and the recall of Gov. Gray Davis isn't helping either. Here's our analysis & commentary...

... On July 6th, the Assembly rejected a GOP budget plan on a party-line vote of 45-27, but here's what's of interest. Five GOP lawmakers abstained (+ Demo Joe Cansiamillia). Two lawmakers were absent. The five who refused to vote for the GOP budget included Abel Maldonado; Bonnie Garcia; Shirley Horton; Lynn Daucher; and Keith Richman. The Assembly GOP plan had heavy cuts to education, family planning, aid to the poor. However, the GOP plan did restore funding to law enforcement – and law enforcement groups were very pleased with this part of the plan...

... Richman did not vote for the plan because he and Cansiamilla have their own *alternative budget plan* – which is probably the best plan submitted thus far. However, it does call for a ½ cent sales tax hike to repay the \$11 billion in deficit bonds...

... Back on June 24th and 25th, the CA State Senate voted 24-14 (both times) on a budget plan submitted by the Demo Senate Pres. John Burton. Like the recently rejected Assembly plan, the Burton budget had a ½ cent sales tax hike to pay off the deficit bonds. This coming week (week of July 14th) the Senate GOP will present its own plan – which does not include any new tax hikes....

... FYI: paying back Wall Street for \$11 billion in borrowing isn't going to be easy. That's why the Demos have proposed this ½ cent sales tax hike. *Calpeek* sources say it would not be subject to Prop. 98, thus the whole amount would pay back the deficit bonds. Because the GOP won't bend on new taxes, the Dept. of Finance has borrowed an idea of two CA Assemblymembers...

... The DOF is using a Darrell Steinberg(D) + John Campbell(R) *tax swap plan*. Under this proposal, ½ cent in sales tax which currently goes to local govt. would be redirected to pay off the deficit bonds. Wall Street would be all smiles. To make local govt. happy, the plan would take some current property tax revenues which currently goes to schools – and backfill local govt. It's very complex and there are questions, such as after the bonds are paid off, does everything go back to where it was??? Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN 2003: NEW SURVEY IN S.F. DA'S CONTEST.

Editor's note: There's some new polling data in the upcoming November San Francisco DA's race where incumbent DA Terence Hallinan's reelection remains very iffy – at best. Here's our update & analysis...

...The new data first made print in the *S.F. Chron.* It was a poll done for candidate Bill Fazio, who has gone up against Hallinan twice before. The poll sample size was 800 likely voters, taken June 17-20 by Cooper & Secrest Assoc. In addition to Fazio, Hallinan also is being challenged by a former prosecutor from his office, Kamala Harris, who before coming to work for Hallinan in S.F. was a deputy DA in Alameda Co. Here's how the poll looks:

...Hallinan 31%, Fazio 27%, Harris 9%, none of the above 3% and undecided 30% On job performance, Hallinan is given 7% excellent, 25% good, 32% only fair and 29% poor. Given these numbers, *Calpeek* sources think the person to watch is Harris. "She could explode – all the room grow with momentum," said one source. On the other hand, this same source didn't think Hallinan nor Fazio would do much better than they are now – *no room to grow*...

...Of course, most of Hallinan's problems date back to late February when an S.F. Grand Jury indicted S.F. Police Chief Earl Sanders and most of his command staff – all arising out of November 2002 fight between 3 young, off-duty cops (one of whom was the son of now acting Chief Alex Fagan) and some "civilians." Except for the three young cops, all the charges against Sanders and his command staff were tossed out of court and Hallinan ended up with tons of egg on his face. And Fazio represented one of the command staff in this incident. Thus some see the Fazio vs. Hallinan repeat as the *cop lover* (Fazio) vs. the *cop hater* (Hallinan)...

...FYI: there is another survey which *Calpeek* learned of. It shows Hallinan with 87% name ID (55% negative), Fazio with 61% name ID (23% negative) and Harris with 31% name ID (23% negative). Stay tuned...

CALPEEK'S CALENDAR OF POLITICAL EVENTS

July 23-26	Nat'l Conf. of State Legislatures annual meeting, S.F.
July 26-28	DLC Nat'l Convention, Philadelphia, PA
July 29-Aug. 1	Council of State Govts-West annual meeting, Honolulu, HI. (916)553-4423 for info.
Sept. 10-13	League of CA Cities annual conf., Sacramento.
Oct. 2-4	AAPC Academic Conf., Akron, OH
Nov. 4	S.F. Muni Election + other cities

RECALL MADNESS: CALIF. VOTER PROJECT JUMPS INTO ANTI-RECALL DRIVE. SO DOES A GOP GROUP.

Editor's note: With a recall election of Gov. Gray Davis (D) a slam dunk to qualify (we still don't know when – the fall or March of 2004), there are now 3 groups fighting the recall effort. Here's a brief update & report...

...The main anti-recall group is Taxpayers Against the Governor's Recall. This group is your basic Demo, labor union coalition. Dan Terry of CA Professional Firefighters is one of the coalition's leaders. Then there's a new group composed of GOPers. It's called Republicans Against the Recall, with Scott Barnett as chair. And then there's the *Calif. Voter Project*...

...CVP is the brainchild of Demo political consultant Phil Muller from the Bay area. Muller used to be into slates, but now he's more mainstream and into some hi-tech campaign stuff. The CVP's web is www.calvoterproject.org and one of his anti-recall website is www.norecall.org. The other is www.StopIssa.org. Although his funding angels will be released soon (required by the FPPC), *Calpeek* sources say the powerful CA Teachers Assn. (CTA) is one of those providing the funding...

...And what will CVP be doing? According to Muller, "We are putting people on notice that we intend to hit hard. We're going to be the tough guys in the anti-recall drive." How tough? On July 1-3 the CVP purchased :60-second ads on Russ Limbaugh's radio show in San Diego, Sacramento and the Bay area. The ads were produced by Keystone Productions of Philadelphia. The ad attacked the recall's chief contributor, U.S. Rep. Darrell Issa (R-Vista). The ad copy was based on stories run in the *S.F. Chron*, *Sacramento BEE* and *San Jose Mercury*. So nothing new – the same stuff about runs in with the law, allegations of auto theft (Issa denies any wrongdoing) and misdemeanor gun violations...

...And Calif. Voter Project isn't limiting its attacks to just Issa. If GOP actor Arnold Schwarzenegger decides to run in the recall election, Muller's got a website already registered: it's called www.BeSerious.org. FYI: right now Schwarzenegger is NOT a public figure and thus Demos (and the news media) have to be careful what they say about this well known actor. But if he becomes a candidate, the situation changes (*New York Times v. Sullivan*). Stay tuned...

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CAMPAIGN 2004: UPDATE ON LEGISLATIVE RACES.

Editor's note: Here is *Part XV* in our continuing series of updates about key CA Legislative races in 2004...

☒ **5th SD** – This is the Central Valley district of CA State Sen. Michael Machado(D-Linden). Until very recently, Machado himself probably thought he'd have an easy reelection in 2004. But it doesn't look that way now. Popular Stockton Mayor Gary Podesto, who is a registered Republican, is about 95% sure of running against Machado, although he's still not made an official statement. If he runs, sources say he'll hire Sacto-based JohnsonClarke – read that as consultants Wayne Johnson and Tim Clarke. And given who Machado has, Demo consultant Richie Ross – it promises to be bloody general election battle – despite the fact that Podesto and Machado have been on friendly terms – up to now. For those with short memories, JohnsonClarke were the consultants for GOP upset winner Jeff Denham in his battle with Demo favorite Rusty Areias in the open 12th SD last year. It was an expensive and nasty campaign. The 5th SD used to be a 44%(D) vs. 44%(R) district – but under the new remapping plan it is now 48%(D) vs. 36%(D). Some of the 5th SD's new territory is also new turf for Machado...

☒ **35th SD Update** – In this GOP primary war to replace Ross Johnson(R), Assemblymembers Ken Maddox and John Campbell every week attempt to outdo one another in the FAX press release wars. On June 30th Maddox released a list of 24 current and past city council members from the 35th SD who have endorsed him. Included on the list: Van Tran of Garden Grove; Mike McGill of Cypress; Paul Walker of La Palma; and Marcia Rudolph of Lake Forest. Not to be outdone, on July 3rd Campbell announced that he's been named co-chair of Citizens Against The Car Tax, a committee formed by State Sen. Tom McClintock(R) to put an initiative on the November 2004 ballot to repeal the VLF. FYI: the Maddox campaign says their guy was one of the early supporters of the VLF repeal...

☒ **33rd AD Update** – GOP assembly candidate Matt Kokkonen, like Campbell, is jumping on the Citizens Against the Car Tax bandwagon – offering to help Sen. McClintock collect signatures once the initiative hits the streets. Kokkonen has picked up the endorsement of Assemblyman Dennis Mountjoy(R) and former San Luis Obispo Co. GOP Chair Dr. Rick Bravo, MD. Kokkonen's chief GOP rival is SLO businessman Sam Blakes-Lee...

DOG DAYS OF SUMMER: POLITICAL SHORT TAKES.

Editor's note: Here are a few items, political & otherwise, worth noting...

■ **Privacy Initiative War** – Get ready for an all-out war between *Californians for Privacy Now* and the *Financial Services Privacy Coalition*. Attempts to reach a compromise on State Sen. Jackie Speier's SB 1 financial privacy bill failed July 8th – getting only 3 YES votes for a reconsideration of her bill. Sources think the NO side (FSPC) will spend upwards of \$10-15 million to kill this 150-word initiative whose language is *much tougher* than SB 1. The YES side (CPN) has announced the hiring of Sacto-based CommandFocus – that's the campaign firm led by savvy spin MDs Dan Schnur and Rob Stutzman. What's interesting is that Schnur & Stutzman are partisan GOP operatives. But as Schnur noted in a news release, "This isn't about left vs. right or conservatives vs. liberals. This is about the people of Calif. taking on the special interests who would sell our privacy to the highest bidder." Kimball Petition Mgt. is in the field collecting signatures...

■ **Presidential Politics** – In case you missed it, Demo Controller Steve Westly and Demo CA Treasurer Phil Angelides have both endorsed U.S. Sen. John Kerry(D) for president...

■ **The Recall – Unintended Consequences** – Does the recall of Gov. Gray Davis(D) count in terms of figuring out how many signatures will be required to qualify future initiatives? The number of signatures for initiatives is based on a formula of how many people voted in the last election for governor. Does the recall of Gov. Davis qualify as the last gubernatorial election??? Some legal experts think it does – meaning if there's a low turnout, a sponsor of a constitutional amendment could be required to collect as few as 280,000 valid signatures, even less for a statute. And a recall: right now it's nearly 900,000 valid signatures required. But if the recall has a low turnout, the number could drop to as few as 400,000. What does it mean? If State Sen. Tom McClintock(R) were smart, he'd wait until after the recall and then go for his initiative to kill off the VLF (aka the car tax). McC isn't a great fundraiser, but with such a low number of signatures required, even McC would have a better than 60-40 chance at qualifying...

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